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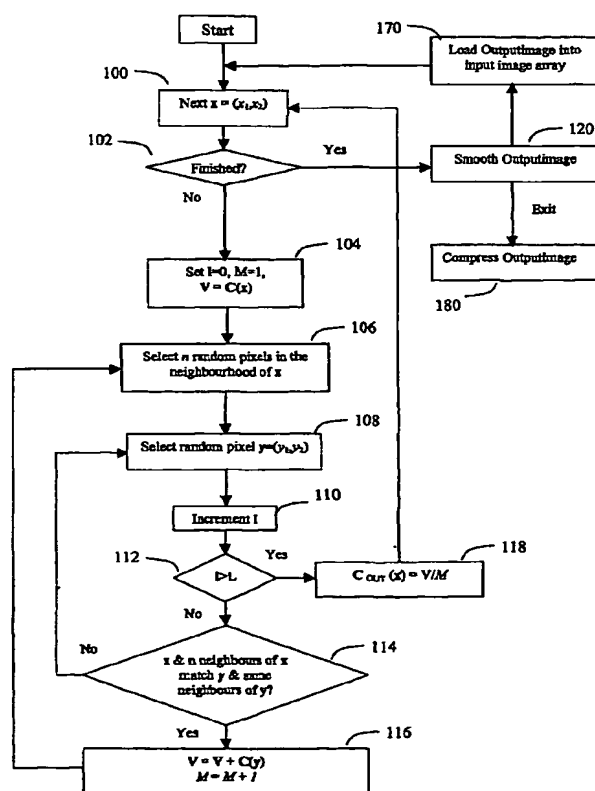
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(54) Title: DIGITAL IMAGE ENHANCEMENT



(57) Abstract: Picture elements of a digitally coded image are each represented by a colour value. The value of an element is adjusted by firstly making a number of comparisons between the element and elements y elsewhere in the image. This comparison involves comparing a first picture element group (which comprises the picture element x under consideration and at least one further picture element in the vicinity thereof) with a second picture element group. The second picture element group comprises a base picture element y and at least one further picture element, the number of picture elements in the second group being the same as the number of picture elements in the first group and the position of the or each further element of the second group relative to the base picture element of the second group being the same as the position of the or a respective further element of the first group relative to the picture element under consideration. The comparison determines (114) whether the two groups match in the sense that they meet a criterion of similarity. When at least one comparison results in a match, a replacement colour value for the picture element under consideration is generated (116), as a function of the colour value for the base picture element of the or each second group for which a match was obtained.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal , INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X ₅ P	<p>STENTIFORD F: "A visual attention estimator applied to image subject enhancement and colour and grey level compression"</p> <p>PATTERN RECOGNITION, 2004. ICPR 2004. PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBRIDGE, UK AUG. 23-26, 2004, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, vol. 3, 23 August 2004 (2004-08-23), pages 638-641, XP010724742</p> <p>ISBN: 0-7695-2128-2</p> <p>the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/- -</p>	1-21

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex

° Special categories of cited documents

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>F. W. M. STENTIFORD: "An estimator for visual attention through competitive novelty with application to image compression"</p> <p>PICTURE CODING SYMPOSIUM, SEOUL, Online!</p> <p>April 2001 (2001-04), XP002350021</p> <p>Retrieved from the Internet:</p> <p>URL: http://www.ee.ucl.ac.uk/jfstentif/PCS2001.pdf > 'retrieved on 2005-10-17!</p> <p>the whole document</p>	1-21
A	<p>US 2002/081033 A1 (STENTIFORD FREDERICK W. M ET AL) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27)</p> <p>cited in the appl icati on</p> <p>abstract; figure 1</p> <p>paragraph '0080! - paragraph '0097!</p> <p>paragraph '0156! - paragraph '0160!</p>	1-21
A	<p>Ü.M. BUHMANN ET AL: "Dithered Col or Quanti zati on"</p> <p>EUROGRAPHICS 98, Onl ine!</p> <p>September 1998 (1998-09) , XP002350022</p> <p>Retrieved from the Internet:</p> <p>URL: http://opus.tu-bs.de/opus/vol1texte/2004/593/pdf/TR-tubs-cg-1998-01.pdf ></p> <p>'retri eved on 2005-10-17!</p> <p>section 1. "Introduction"</p>	1-21

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